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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : Kimle, et al.  
SERIAL NO. : 09/335,648  
FILED : June 18, 1999  
TITLE : METHOD OF ELECTRONICALLY INITIATING AND  
MANAGING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION CONTRACTS  
Grp./A.U. : 2164  
Examiner : Kyle, C.  
Conf. No. : 6709  
Docket No. : P03566US0

Handwritten signatures and date 3/5/02.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION  
37 C.F.R. 1.111 116

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Technology Center 2100

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C.  
**BOX NON-FEE**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 8, 2001, please consider the following remarks:

REMARKS

**A. Overview**

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. The Examiner, in the Office Action of November 8, 2001, entered final rejections to the claims. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**B. Rejections Based on Primary Reference Walker U.S. Patent 5,794,207**

The Examiner declined to remove U.S. Patent 5,794,207 ("Walker") as a prior art reference on two grounds: (1) The evidence submitted was insufficient to establish diligence from a date prior to the date of reduction to practice of Walker to either a

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